

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 6, 2013

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 2, 2013

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 10, 2013

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 1, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 3

Introduced by Assembly Member Alejo

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Ammiano, Atkins, Bonta, Campos, Chesbro, Dickinson, Eggman, Fong, Garcia, Gordon, Gorell, Roger Hernández, Levine, Medina, Muratsuchi, V. Manuel Pérez, Quirk, Rendon, Ting, Wieckowski, Williams, ~~and Yamada Yamada, Achadjian, Bloom, Blumenfield, Bocanegra, Bonilla, Bradford, Brown, Buchanan, Ian Calderon, Chau, Chávez, Conway, Cooley, Daly, Fox, Frazier, Gatto, Gomez, Gray, Jones-Sawyer, Linder, Lowenthal, Mitchell, Mullin, Nazarian, Nestande, Olsen, Pan, Perea, John A. Pérez, Quirk-Silva, Salas, Skinner, Stone, Torres, and Weber~~)

(Coauthors: Senators Correa, De León, Lara, Lieu, Padilla, and Yee)

December 3, 2012

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 3—Relative to immigration.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 3, as amended, Alejo. Immigration.

This measure would specify goals for the reform of the nation's immigration system, and would urge Congress and the President of the United States to take a humane and just approach to solving the nation's broken immigration system.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The United States of America is a nation of values,
2 founded on the principles that all men and women are created
3 equal, and the promise of freedom for all; and

4 WHEREAS, We are a nation of immigrants, who believe in the
5 promise of freedom and opportunity; and

6 WHEREAS, The current immigration system is broken,
7 antiquated, and not meeting the challenges of the 21st century. It
8 separates families, including same-sex couple families, creates
9 long backlogs for families seeking reunification, and neglects the
10 hard work and financial contributions immigrants make to our
11 country; and

12 WHEREAS, Since 2008, more than 1.6 million immigrants have
13 been deported, and one in every 10 American children faces the
14 threat of the deportation of a parent; and

15 WHEREAS, It is estimated that about 11 million undocumented
16 immigrants are in the United States, and California has the largest
17 population of immigrants, both legal and undocumented; and

18 WHEREAS, Immigrants and their children constitute nearly
19 one-half of California's population and live and work in all 58
20 counties, most notably in the San Diego, Central Valley, Los
21 Angeles, Ventura, and greater San Francisco areas; and

22 WHEREAS, Approximately 77 percent of undocumented
23 immigrants who reside in California live with family members
24 who are legal United States residents and citizens; and

25 WHEREAS, One in 10 workers in California is an
26 undocumented immigrant, and immigrants are a vibrant,
27 productive, and vital part of the state's growing economy; and

28 WHEREAS, Immigrants are essential in keeping the American
29 economy strong; from technology programmers in the Silicon
30 Valley to restaurant owners and workers, immigrants are filling
31 an intrinsic need in the labor force; and

32 WHEREAS, Agricultural workers have been performing very
33 important and difficult work to maintain America's food supply,
34 and have a role of ensuring that Americans have safe and secure
35 agricultural products to sell and consume; and

36 WHEREAS, Students should not be punished for their
37 immigration status but instead should be given recognition for
38 their sacrifice, hard work, and determination; and

1 WHEREAS, The United States can do a better job of attracting
2 and keeping the world’s best and brightest. A comprehensive
3 immigration reform should also grant immigrants who have
4 received a Ph.D. or master’s degree in science, technology,
5 engineering, or mathematics from an American university the
6 opportunity to invest in and contribute to this great nation. For the
7 future of our economy, it makes no sense to educate the world’s
8 future innovators and entrepreneurs only to ultimately force them
9 to leave our country at the moment they are most able to contribute
10 to our economy; and

11 WHEREAS, Modernizing our antiquated and dysfunctional
12 immigration system will uphold our nation’s basic values of
13 fairness and equality, as well as access to health care, and

14 WHEREAS, A comprehensive, as well as compassionate,
15 approach to solve our broken immigration system should be one
16 that works for all communities and families in America; and

17 WHEREAS, A just immigration reform must ensure that it
18 reflects one of our basic values—that we all are created equal—thus
19 immigration reform must recognize each immigrant’s full
20 humanity; and

21 WHEREAS, A proposal must be comprised of tenets that
22 achieve all of the following: (1) establish an earned citizenship
23 process that requires immigrants to pay back taxes and learn
24 English; (2) enhance security in our ports of entry to secure our
25 nation; (3) reform immigration enforcement programs that separate
26 families to ensure that family unification systems are strengthened;
27 (4) upgrade the current visa programs, including the creation of a
28 guest worker program for agricultural workers, in order to have a
29 legal workforce and a system that better enforces labor protections;
30 and (5) uphold due process as well as the inherent rights of all
31 immigrants; now, therefore, be it

32 *Resolved, by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
33 *California, jointly, That the Legislature urges the President and*
34 *the Congress of the United States to take a humane and just*
35 *approach to solving our nation’s broken immigration system; and*
36 *be it further*

37 *Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies*
38 *of this resolution to the President and the Vice President of the*
39 *United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to*
40 *the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and*

- 1 Representative from California in the Congress of the United
- 2 States, to the Governor of California, and to the author of this
- 3 resolution.

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